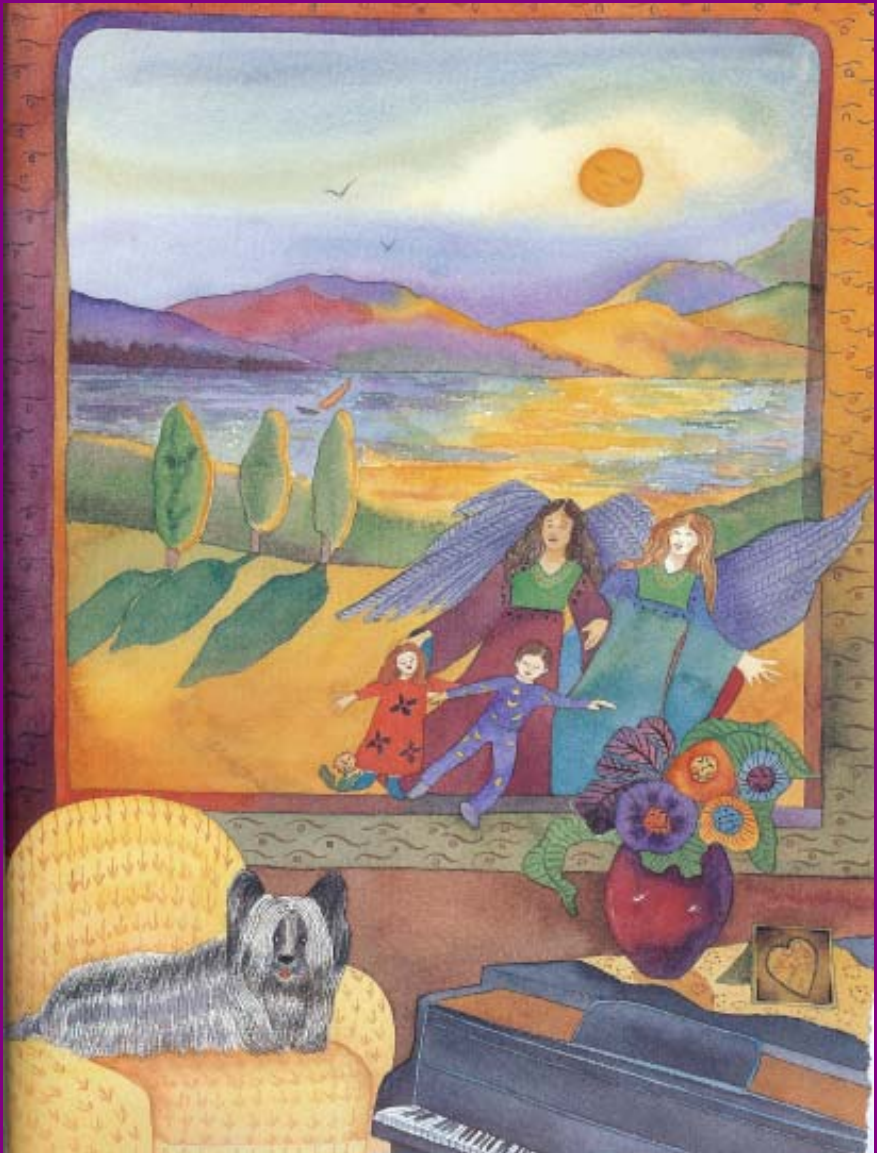




Potomac Piper

Newsletter of the Potomac Skye Terrier Club

Winter, 2005





The Potomac Skye Terrier Club Officers and Board Members - 2005

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About the cover: From *"Angels in the Vineyard"* by author and artist Jessel Miller. This children's book won the American Book Award for Excellence in Literature in 2002.

Advertise in the Potomac Piper!

The Potomac Piper is the official newsletter of the Potomac Skye Terrier Club. The Potomac Piper is mailed four times a year to Skye Terrier owners and admirers.

Advertise a big win, a promising youngster, a deceased cherished friend, or send a message to others who love the breed.

One full page - \$25.00

Half page - \$15.00

Send your ad and payment (payable to: PSTC) to Maida Connor, 225 Opossum Hill Road, Aspers, PA 17304-9504. Deadline for next issue is March 1, 2006.

Message from the President

With this issue of the Potomac Piper, I am delighted to report that our little color booklet/newsletter is being enjoyed and enthusiastically supported by Potomac members. Thank you to all who contributed their time and writing talents to this issue and thanks to those who placed advertisements.

This issue features a variety of articles on a wide range of topics. Junior, Courtney Penner who is being mentored by PSTC members, Don and Sandi Smiley, contributed an article of her experiences with Skyes. Kim Byars wrote a heartwarming article on her journey to acquiring a Skye, her adventures at Greyfriar's Bobby's statue in Edinburgh, and her Skye's role in helping her overcome personal health challenges.

2006 is just getting started and I encourage you to attend our Annual Meeting. In this issue's mailing envelope you will also find your 2006 membership renewal. In addition to our modest membership of \$10 per person, I invite you to consider a small additional donation which is completely voluntary for two of our more significant annual expenses - specialty trophies and printing of the Potomac Piper.

Thank you to all of our members for making our club vibrant!

Michael J. Pesare, President

Meet Skye Terrier Junior Handler, Courtney Penner

My name is Courtney Penner (age 13) and I have been showing Skye Terriers for about 3 and a 1/2 years. I started showing though when I was 6 and have been showing for 7 years.

In Canada for Junior Handling you do not pre-enter, you enter between 10:00 and 11:00 during the show and Junior Handling is held at 12:00. You can show any dog you choose, it does not have to be your own. So we learn to show many different breeds. One day my friend and I were looking for dogs for Juniors and I couldn't find something I wanted to show. She said "Why not try a Skye Terrier, they are a pretty unique dog" so I walked up to Don and Sandra Smiley and asked "Can I please show one of your dogs in Junior handling?" I was very little at that time and Sandra said "Only if you can pick him up." So she put



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Potomac Skye Terrier Club Members at the Skye Terrier Club of America National Specialty

By Travis Wright

It rained! It poured! And a good time was had by all! Torrential rains did not dampen the spirits of Potomac Skye Terrier Club members at the most recent Skye Terrier Club of America National Specialty weekend. Like the Skye Terrier itself, club members proved plucky, resilient, and all-purpose in dealing with challenges created by bad weather.

For what may have been the first time in history, the Devon Kennel Club show was cancelled on Saturday of the specialty weekend due to torrential flooding. Though disappointing enough that the opportunity to showcase Skyes and compete for major points was lost, the Devon show is also home to the annual Potomac Skye Terrier Club (PSTC) booth—the club’s largest money maker of the year. Though softer types may have simply rolled over and backed down from the challenge, the members of the PSTC made the best of what could have been a grim situation.

Under the direction of our secretary, Maida Connor, club members hauled boxes up two flights of stairs in the rain and booted club member, Ben Dale, out of his hotel room to transform it into a “PTSC boutique.” After creating signs and spreading word of the boutique to other dog show aficionados trapped into hotel, the boutique managed a brisk business throughout the morning. In the end, the booth generated a respectable return and many laughs for club members’ labors. Special mention and appreciation must be made of the superhuman efforts of club members, Darren and Lynn McMillion who drove all night in an amazing downpour to make sure that booth items arrived on-time before hearing of the cancellation and Maida Connor who works throughout the year to secure special items for sale. To celebrate the success of the booth and to enjoy each other’s company, club members road tripped in the rain to Cracker Barrel for some “home cooking” and comfort food—a perfect way to pass a rainy day. A special thank you to



Potomac Skye Terrier Club members and guests at the Eagle Tavern (front row L to R): Gary Vlachos, Bill Behan, Michael Pesare, Maida Connor. (second row L to R): Sue Chandler, Jack Prince, Ben Dale, Meri Aalto, Anne O'Reilly, Rosemary Hodgins, Donna LaGorga, Lynn McMillion, Travis Wright, Darren McMillion and Roxan Rohrich

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those club members who participated in the zany fun for indulging this displaced Southerner's cravings.

Though still full from lunch, club members dutifully reconvened at Eagle Tavern in Eagle, PA for the PTSC quarterly meeting. After swapping stories and sharing more than our fair share of laughs, club president, Mike Pesare, convened a rousing business meeting. Most conversation focused on the importance of public outreach and education,

recognizing the challenges and necessity of broadening the fan base for our heavenly, but rare, breed. In response, a committee was charged with the task of designing display that might be used by club members to showcase our breed at various events in our local communities. If you have ideas about the display or other thoughts about better publicizing our breed, please contact me, Travis Wright, or club president, Mike Pesare. After a final toast, club member departed for home and to ready themselves for the next day and the Skye Terrier Club of America National Specialty.

Thankfully, the skies cleared on Sunday and the more than thirty Skyes entered in competition could strut their stuff in style—even if in three inches of mud. It is always an exciting experience to witness so many of our beautiful breed in one place. The PTSC was well represented in the show ring, with several of the top awards being given to club members. Congratulations to all of those entered at Montgomery!



Travis Wright with Emma and Emily at Montgomery



In the ring at Montgomery - competing for Winners Dog: Kirsi Sainio with Of Skyeline Captain Hook and Dick Meen with Kishinga's HMS Gunsmoke

Though this year's National Specialty weekend could have been a rain out, the enthusiasm, kindness, and humor of PTSC members made the weekend more than memorable for me. It was such a treat to see so many folks and play with so many Skyes. Whether you show your dog, she is ranked as the country's top couch potato, or you cannot wait to have a Skye of your own, the specialty weekend offers something for everyone. I am already looking

forward to next year—and picking up the laughter where we left off and welcoming some new friends into our ranks.

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him on the ground for me to try and pick up and I got him on the table no problem. He leaned into me to help me lift him easier. So I went and entered Juniors with "Eric" one of thier drop eared Skyes. I won my class. The next show I handled him in Juniors again. I handled him for almost a year and won Best In Show Handler multiple times with him. We became quite good friends with Don and Sandra.

I started to handle "Risto," Can. Champion Olivia's Quite an Aristocrat. He did alot for me and we were quite a team and won many more Best In Show Junior Handlers. Although thats also when I had my first big disappointment. I was invited to the Zone Finals to compete for the top Junior in BC and go on to the Nationals for top in Canada and if you win that then move on to Cruft's for top in the World. Thats my dream and I hope Risto is the one to help me get there. I was just 12 when I was at the Zone Finals and I lost to a 15 year old by 1/2 a point. I was frustrated but thought I will try again next year. Risto brought me very far in Junior Handling the year to come. I was in Senior Open then so I was competing with Juniors ages 12 -18. I had just turned 13 in January and Risto and I moved up into Open during the end of the previous year. In 2005 this year at the Zone Finals I started my dream. I won Best Overall Handler and got my chance to go to Nationals where the top Juniors competed for the top spot in Canada. I was so excited. At the Nationals I did not place in the top four although I was also one of the youngest Juniors there. The girl who won deserved it being as it was her last year in Juniors and she was a great handler. That was my biggest accomplishment in Juniors.

That was also the year Don and Sandra put me on as a Co-Owner of Risto and the baby "Ruslka," Olivia Spirit Of Rusulka. Don and Sandra had invited me to come to some shows in the USA. Lets just say, it took a long time to get me there because my parents and grand parents were not willing to let me go. Finally in June of 2005 they let me go. We had alot of fun driving to California for Great West and to Colorado for the Roving Skye Terrier Specialty. In California I won my class in Juniors every day except the one day where I got second. So then I moved up to Open Intermediate. In Colorado I made the cut out of 25-30 so I was in the top 5-7. They also were kind enough to take me to New Jersey and Pennsilvaina for Montgomery, Morris and Essex, Hatboro and Devon. At Mongomery I won Best In Show Junior Handler with Risto. That was extremely exciting and a wonderful privilege to have that title.

In Junior Handling in Canada, I do not only show Skyes. I show many different breeds, from every group. Although my favorites are Skye Terriers, Irish Setters, Drevers (rare breed), Golden Retrievers, Boston Terriers, Pugs, and Collies. I also don't only show in Juniors, I handle many other dogs for people.

Don and Sandra have done alot for me and helped me get to where I am. They have let me show their dogs and have taught me alot about Skye Terriers and dog shows. I can not thank them enough for all their help and for taking me with them to American Dog Shows, letting me be a Co-owner on Risto and Rusulka and for letting me show their dogs in Canada as well.

HISTORY IS MADE

On October 1, 2005, Ch. Gleanntan Gee Whillikers earned his 9th all-breed Best in Show, thus eclipsing the all-time Best in Show record for a male Skye Terrier held for 35 years.



Ch. Gleanntan Gee Whillikers

Best in Show

Warrenton Kennel Club - October 1, 2005
BIS Judge: Mr. Lawrence E. Stanbridge
Group Judge: Glenda Dawkins
Handled by: Michael J. Pesare, Gleanntan



Visit our web site at:
www.gleanntan.com



Loving Animals

By Jessel Miller

"All my life, I have honored the animal kingdom," says illustrator and author, Jessel Miller. "I give them credit for healing, helping and friendship in my world, for they are angels, in my mind."

"Animals appear in all my books. They dance, spread joy and wisdom with and without words. Gobby, the Blue Ribbon Skye Terrier appears in *Angels in the Vineyards* along with Jack, the plain-ol' happy dog on the page entitled, *Tucker and Tilly the turtles*, and he also appears on the page called, *Special Day*. Another page in the book is called, *The Purr is the Cure*, for I know that animals relax the mind and soothe the soul."

"*Angels in the Vineyards* is the story told by Angels, Ease and Grace. In 2001, I sat at my computer and listened to the voices of these loving guides and the poem, *Angels in the Vineyards* was born. This simple book won the American Book Award for Excellence in Literature in 2002. I asked myself why? and heard the Angels say to me, "Old fashioned ways are most important."

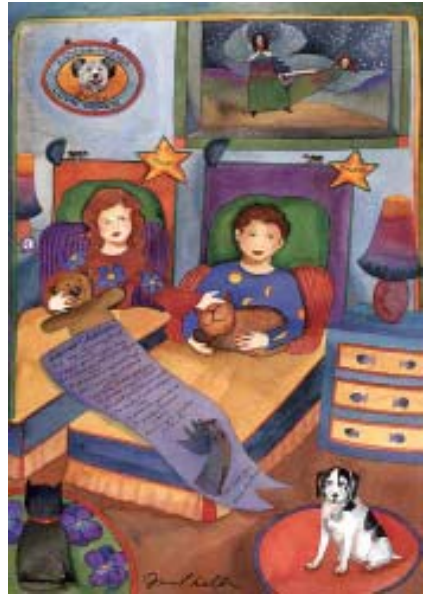
"I feel fortunate to have lived before television and computers. My childhood was a time of make-believe, imagination and creativity. Visiting with neighbors and friends was an everyday occurrence. A simple life was lived with respect and compassion for all."

"My grandparents taught my parents to be respectful of others and of this earth. Though we hear the lessons and see what modern humanity is doing to the earth, this book is a reminder to embrace core values that our ancestors before us embraced. We all go too fast and take the beauty of nature for granted."

"I put all the things I love in *Angels in the Vineyards*, including my dear friend, Carol Fink's Skye Terrier, Gobby. Carol is a rare flower in the Garden of Life. She embraces all who know her and devotes her life to her animals."

Jessel Miller's stories reflect her childhood and her books are filled with lessons of love and kindness. Through writing and art, her dream is to carry the treasures received from her fortunate upbringing, out into the world.

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*Other books by Jessel Miller include **The Calico Cat**; **Mustard Trilogy: A Story About Soft Love and Strong Values - Book 1**; **Journey to Love, Book 2**; **Lessons from Old Souls, Book 3**. Signed books are available by calling toll free 888-702-6323 or 707-257-2350. Unsigned books are available online at jesselgallery.com.*

Jessel lives in Napa, California surrounded by beauty and serenity. She owns and operates the Jessel Gallery known as 'The Best Art Experience in Napa Valley.' The gallery has served the Napa Valley community for 20 years and daily welcomes visitors from around the world. Jessel Gallery is located at 1019 Atlas Peak Road in Napa, California 94558, one mile south of the Silverado Country Club.



Potomac Skye Terrier Club Quilt

GREAT Gift for the dog lover (or yourself)!!

Afghan featuring Dandie Dimont breeder and artist, Cathy Nelson's Terrier Group

\$50 per afghan plus \$5. shipping and handling.

Please send your name, mailing address, phone number, e-mail address (if applicable) and check (payable to PSTC) for \$55 to Maida Connor, 225 Opossum Hill Road, Aspers, PA 17304.

Congratulations M4 & M2!



Precious Memories

Ch. Gleanntan Gee Whillikers - "Michael" and Michael
after winning the Terrier Group at the Warrenton Kennel Club
show - October 1, 2005. Michael (M4) went on to take BIS.

Roxan

Best in show

By WILLIAM O'BRIAN



Antique cartoon submitted by a PSTC member

Murphy

By Kim Byars

This is, above all, a love story. Born of a tale told to a child over forty years ago and somehow never forgotten. The storyteller was my father. The child was me. It was the story of a little dog who slept on his master's grave for fourteen years. The story was "Greyfriar's Bobby".

My father had a 1934 edition of "The Book of Dogs." In this slim blue book was the tiny picture of a Skye Terrier. Daddy would thumb through the pages and show me the little dog so like "Auld Jock's" Bobby. It was a sad story and as a child of five I would

always cry after hearing it recited, but always alone, knowing that my dad would never want to cause me sadness.

Time passed as it does for us all and the story, recited less frequently, receded into the periphery of memory. As a young teenager I developed a fascination with Mary Stewart, Queen of Scots. Many study hall periods were spent in the library poring over books about her. As a high school senior I wrote an essay about the one person in history whom I most admired, and yes, it was about Mary. To this day I still hold that fascination, but it was the last moments of her like that most captivated my imagination when her little lap dog, a Skye, crept from beneath her skirts to witness and then mourn the loss of his mistress. In short, Mary had something that few of us are lucky enough to ever have, someone to follow us to "the block". While her body was hidden, her possessions destroyed and her mourners dispersed by force, Mary did not die alone and her first mourner was a Skye.

In 2003 while thumbing through books at the local library one in particular struck my fancy. It was the wonderful novel/biography of Mary Stewart written by Margaret George. I almost put it back on the shelf as it was very thick and I did not think it would make a fitting beach read for our upcoming vacation. But something made me go back and pick it up. Reading the book quite simply changed my life. In in Ms. George goes into some detail about "Geddon" Mary's favorite Skye, and while the book is a work of fiction it inspired me to begin a journey to find that special Skye who for me would represent both Geddon and Bobby.

Searching for a Skye is not easy for someone who knows nothing about dogs. My husband of 25 years was a bit hesitant as we already had two cats and no dog experience since childhood.

The internet told me that Skyes are not idea for first time owners and I found few kennels to choose from. Then, one day between seeing patients and making hurried calls to breeders, I reached Gleanntan and a jovial Ben Dale. "Yes, we have puppies!" he boomed and gave me another number to call where I might speak with Mike Pesare about the details. That conversation was the beginning of countless emails and phone calls lasting from June 2003 until the present. I



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discovered that while the puppies were not actually present yet they were expected in late Summer. Suddenly, I felt the part of an expectant mother. My husband and son became equally excited and we counted the days until Emily delivered, Mike keeping us informed almost daily of her progress.

Murphy was born August 3, 2003. One of a litter of seven. I will never forget the excitement I felt that Sunday morning as I read the email announcing that four girls and three boys had been born at Gleanntan. Surely, with that large litter one could be found for me. And he was. Several weeks passed with more emails and pictures and then I saw him, lying with his little muzzle resting against a baby blue teddy. I looked into those soulful eyes and somehow I simply knew. No longer known as 'Blue Boy', he became Murphy and in November of that year we met for the first time.

I had never liked to fly and had never flown by myself, but on that Saturday I winged my way from Nashville to Dulles to meet Mike and Maida and collect my baby. Never shall I forget that face that emerged from the soft carrier as I knelt on the floor of the airport. Tears of joy engulfed me as I simply sat there holding that soft squirming puppy. After a delightful weekend with my new friends I flew back to Nashville with Murphy tucked beneath my seat.

That was the beginning. What no one could have foreseen was the role Murphy would play in my life over the coming months. In early August of last year I noticed him following me around even more closely than usual. Sometimes he would nudge me as I lay in bed as if checking to make sure I was alright. I brushed all this aside, concentrating on work, my family, and my aging parents. Then on August 11th I was involved in a freak accident. I received not only a head injury but some facial disfigurement as well. And I was devastated. Confined to my house for the better part of two months Murph never left my side.

At first he was the consummate nurse, lying beside me on the bed and nudging me periodically as if to say "You have to get up!" There were days when all I could do was cry and always, those sweet puppy kisses washed away my grief. When I was strong and brave enough, I began to sit outside and read. Seeing was difficult for me and reading, one of my grand passions, was almost impossible.

So most of the time we simply sat in the Autumn sun and watched the leaves change and then flutter to the ground. There are those who have said that I should have seen a professional to sort through my anger and all the other emotions spinning through my head. But I had my "therapist" and no one could have done a better job of pulling me back than that scruffy little Skye with deep brown eyes and floppy ears! The dentist and the surgeon repaired my face but Murphy repaired my soul.

I healed. My eyesight returned to normal and I returned to work. Every night when I came home Murph was there to greet me. I will always feel that he knew how difficult it was for me those first few months, putting on a white coat and going back into patients' rooms when I had so recently been a patient myself. Gradually things became easier and then they became normal and the horrible memories began to recede. After almost 25 years in healthcare I know that the body heals but not always the spirit. I was lucky to have my friends, family, and Murphy. People can be reassuring, but the love of a dog most especially a Skye, is a gift beyond measure when one is hurting.

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Happy 2006!
Carol Fink & Panya

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In June of this year my 89 year old father broke his hip and spent a month in the hospital. Weak and depressed he was almost ready to give up when I had Murphy cleared to come to the Long Term Care Unit. I was not sure how he would react surrounded by wheelchairs and medical equipment in a hospital setting. With a bit of trepidation and a quick Hail Mary we entered those double doors to surprise my dad.

Suddenly Murphy, who has been known to trip over his own feet and clear off end tables with the sweep of his tail, began to move with the grace of a dancer. He navigated wheelchairs, IV pumps, walkers and canes, instinctively knowing that these people were fragile and in need of love and attention. I never led him to my father's room. He led me.

His tongue became a butterfly wing caressing the aged hands that reached for him from every direction. He was polite, giving equal time to each admirer until through my tears I saw that he had somehow found my dad. He hopped into the chair beside his bed and gently placing his front paws onto the sheet began to kiss my dad's ear. I will never know what he may have whispered that day, but I do know that the smile that broke across that dear old face told me that something had transpired and I know that soon after that first visit Daddy improved enough to go home and is still making remarkable progress for a man of his age.

Following our visit we would stop in to see a lovely lady whom I had seen sitting in her wheelchair staring at a portrait of her husband. Her face would beam when she saw Murphy and they visited for several moments each afternoon before we left for home. She told me how much she loved and missed her own dogs and thanked me for bringing Murphy to visit. He also would stop to kiss her roommate who was blind and could not speak but who invariably smiled when she felt that soft fluff beneath her fingers. Do dogs sense what humans need, and can they supply it better than we can? Based on my experience with this remarkable animal I would have to say I think they can.

In September I visited Great Britain and at last met Mary Stewart at Westminster Abbey and Bobby in Edinburgh. I slipped a rose from my garden onto Mary's crypt. A small offering for the gift she had given me by inspiring me to go in search of my own Geddon, who as fate would have it, did indeed follow me to my own block and see me safely through.

At Bobby's grave I left a picture of Murphy and a tuft of his hair, thanking him as well for that long ago tale told to me by my father that lead me from a small town in Kentucky to a wonderful friendship in Pennsylvania, to a cathedral in London, and finally to a small grave in Scotland. My journey has been one of the spirit, born of a dream, inspired by those long dead, nurtured by my wonderful friends, Mike and Maida at Gleanntan and realized through the love of a very special Skye. This story is a tribute to that Skye and all those who love the breed and have felt, as I have, that supernatural bond that they inspire.

Kim Byars is a Family Nurse Practitioner in Murray, Kentucky. She lives with her husband Bud, their sons Chris, two cats, and the remarkable Murphy who has added to much to all the lives he has touched. She would especially like to thank Gleanntan for having the confidence to entrust her and her family, newcomers to the breed, with one of their babies.

Here Comes Gladys



Gleanntan GoodieTwoShoes

Waiting to Meet You at a Show

*Bred and loved by:
Gleanntan Kennels, Reg.*

*Owned and loved by:
Anne D. O'Reilly*

2005 National Roving Specialty
Greely Colorado



Amble On Carrie
Award of Merrit
Under Betty-Anne Stenmark
Terrier Breeder Judge

Breeder Owners:
Don Smiley
and Karen J'Anthony

Handled by
Don Smiley

May all *your* wishes come true



Coco's first Christmas in Wayne, NJ, 2004

Happy New Year
from the "girls" of David Scott Drive

Sue, Gleanntan Graceunderpressure "Gracie"
and Brenmoor Beguiler at Gleanntan "Coco" Chandler

*A Time for Celebration;
A Time for Remembrance;
A Time for Renewal.
We Celebrate our Lives & Times;
We Remember our Skyes & Friends
- New and Old;
We take this time to renew and
regenerate for the New Year.*

*Sandra, and the Girls wish you the best of times, now
and always!
Happy Holidays!*



About the Potomac Skye Terrier Club

The Potomac Skye Terrier Club is an AKC-sanctioned club devoted to preserving and promoting interest in the Skye Terrier in the Middle Atlantic region of the United States. Since 1972, the club has fulfilled its mission by annually holding a Specialty show as well as meetings, educational seminars, and through communication with its members.

If you are interested in supporting the Potomac Skye Terrier Club through membership, please contact Maida Connor, Secretary, 225 Opossum Hill Road, Aspers, PA 17304-9504, Phone: 717-677-0700 or e-mail: maidaconnor@adelphia.net.

Don't Miss the 2006 Potomac Specialty!

Friday, April 21, 2006

Howard County Fairgrounds
West Friendship, Maryland

In conjunction with the Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland
Terrier Group Show

Judges:

Regular Classes - Colin A. Smith, Finland

Sweepstakes - Meri Tuuli Aalto, Finland

Also to include a lunchtime gathering for all Skye attendees and a dinner
(details will be forthcoming)

Also, plan to attend:

Saturday, April 22 - Old Dominion Kennel Club

Sunday, April 23 - Baltimore County Kennel Club

Monday, April 24 - Catoctin Kennel Club

For more information,
please contact:

Maida Connor
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225 Opossum Hill Road
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